

Applicant: John Bergman
Application No.: 10/531,537
Response to Office action dated Jul. 23, 2008
Response filed October 22, 2008

Remarks

Claims 24–50 remain pending in the application. In the Office action dated Jul. 23, 2008, claims 24–29, 34–38, 41, 47, and 48 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over the disclosure of US 6,485,692 to Freitag et al. Claims 30–33, 39–40, and 42–46 were rejected as obvious over Freitag et al in view of US 4,987,852 to Sakai et al. and further in view of EP 0916765 to Roitto et al.

Freitag et al. discloses a continuous feed parallel reactor for reacting a plurality of mixtures in parallel in a semi-batch or continuous mode. The Freitag et al. device is presented in the context of combinatorial chemistry, used, for example in drug discovery. There is no discussion of use of this apparatus for preparation of a paper or board coating. The independent claims have been amended to clarify that the claimed method is for the manufacture of a coating *for a paper or board web* (claim 24) and the claimed apparatus is an arrangement in the manufacture of a *paper or board web coating* (claim 35). The bodies of these claims have been amended as well to clarify that a paper or board web coating is being manufactured or an apparatus having a means for transferring and mixing paper or board web coating components is claimed. New claims 49 and 50 have been added with structural limitations which avoid means plus function language. “Deaeration Technology of Coating Liquid” discloses a “pressurizing deaerator”, but not two or more mixing zones arranged in series and/or in parallel, some of which are pressurized at a pressure level about 100 to 1,000 kPa.

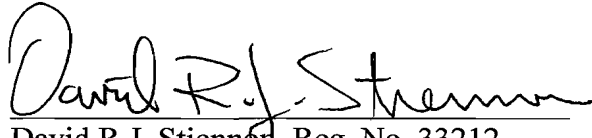
US 4,987,852 to Sakai et al. discloses a process for removing air bubbles from paint prior to its application to metal sheets. It does not disclose an apparatus for mixing two components at all. Moreover, Sakai uses negative pressure, not the claimed positive pressure range of 100 to 1000 kPa. EP 0 916 765 to Roitto shows a method for removing foreign materials from coating in the machine circulation of a coating station. It too does not disclose mixing components of the coating.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

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Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.
Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David R.J. Stiennon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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